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TAGS: PORG, IS, SF
SUBJECT: WASHINGTON POST DECEMBER 5 JACK ANDERSON ARTICLE
1. UNCLASSIFIED - ENTIRE TEXT.
2. FOLLOWING IS THE TEXT OF AN ARTICLE IN THE DECEMBER 5 WASHINGTON POST BY JACK ANDERSON ENTITLED, "THREE NATIONS TO BEGIN CRUISE MISSILE PROJECT."
3. BEGIN TEXT: ISRAEL, SOUTH AFRICA AND TAIWAN WILL SOON BEGIN JOINT PRODUCTION OF STRATEGIC CRUISE MISSILES--SMALL, PILOTLESS JETS THAT CAN HUG THE GROUND TO EVADE ENEMY RADAR AND DELIVER NUCLEAR WARHEADS 1,500 MILE" A'AY.
U.S. INTELLIGENCE AGENCIES HAVE KNOWN FOR YEARS THAT THE THREE NATIONS WERE WORKING TOGETHER ON NUCLEAR WEAPONS DEVELOPMENT. BUT THE ADDITION OF CRUISE MISSILES TO THEIR ARSENALS DRASTICALLY ALTERS THE WORLDWIDE "BALANCE OF TERRO EVEN THE SOVIET UNION IS CONSIDERED TO BE AT LEAST FIVE YEARS AWAY FROM DEPLOYMENT OF THESE SUPERSMART WEAPONS.
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IN C D, HARD GEOGRAPHIC TERMS, THE TRIUMVIRATE'S NEW MISSILE CAPABILITY MEANS THAT ISRAEL--WHICH ALREADY HAS A STOCK PILE OF 200 OR MORE NUCLEAR BOMBS--CAN DELIVER WARHEADS FROM ITS OWN BACKYARD TO ANY OF ITS ARAB ENEMIES IN THE MIDDLE EAST, AND EVEN DEEP INSIDE THE SOVIET UNION.
SOUTH AFRICA COULD ANNIHILATE TARGETS ANYWHERE IN THE SOUTHERN PART OF THE CONTINENT, AND INCREASE THE EFFECTIVE RANGE OF THE MISSILES BY LAUNCHING THEM FROM AIRCRAFT. TAIWAN WOULD BE ABLE TO DESTROY PEKING AND OTHER CITIES IN MAINLAND CHINA FROM SECURE LAUNCHING SITES ON ITS OWN SOIL OR FROM NAVAL VESSELS FAR OUT TO SEA.
THE BEAUTY OF CRUISE MISSILES FROM A MILITARY STANDPOINT-PARTICULARLY FOR COUNTRIES SURROUNDED OR NUMERICALLY OVERWHELMED BY THEIR ENEMIES--IS THAT THEY NEED NOT BE DEPLOYED IN HIGHLY VISIBLE SITES THAT ARE VULNERABLE TO ATTACK. FOUR CRUISE MISSILES CAN BE INSTALLED ON A SINGLE TRUCK AND HIDDEN, READY TO GO, IN AN ORDINARY GARAGE. THIS, IN FACT, IS PRECISELY WHAT THE UNITED STATES PLANS TO DO WITH ITS CRUISE MISSILES EARMARKED
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FOR DEPLOYMENT IN BRITAIN.
INTELLIGENCE SOURCES TOLD MY ASSOCIATE RON MCRAE THAT ISRAEL, TAIWAN AND SOUTH AFRICA PROBABLY HOPED TO PRODUCE AND DEPLOY THEIR CRUISE MISSILES IN SECRECY. NONE OF THE THREE HAS EVEN ADMITTED HAVING NUCLEAR WEAPONS, AND THEY HAVE TAKEN EXTREME MEASURES TO KEEP THE OUTSIDE WORLD FROM LEARNING THEIR SECRET. IN 1975, FOR EXAMPLE, THE ISRAELIS FIRED ON AN AMERCAN SPY PLANE THAT GOT TOO CLOSE TO THEIR NUCLEAR FACILITIES, AND SOUTH AFRICA

EXPELLED THE U.S. AMBASSADOR, WILLIAM EDMONDSON, LAST YEAR WHEN A HIDDEN CAMERA WAS DISCOVERED IN THE BELLY OF HIS PRIVATE PLANE.
MONITORING OF THE JOINT NUCLEAR PROGRAM WAS GIVEN HIGH PRIORITY, AND LAST YEAR AN AMERICAN SPY SATELLITE RECORDED A MYSTERIOUS FLASH IN THE INDIAN OCEAN OFF SOUTH AFRICA. FROM THIS AND ADDITIONAL EVIDENCE--INCLUDING RADIO INTERCEPTS AND REPORTS ON THE MOVEMENT OF TECHNICIANS AMONG THE THREE NUCLEAR PARTNERS--THREE U.S. INTELLIGENCE AGENCIES CONCLUDED THAT THE FLASH HAD BEEN A NUCLEAR TEST.
A WHITE HOUSE PANEL DECIDED THAT THE EVIDENCE WAS INCONCLUSIVE, BUT FOR SOME REASON THE INDEPENDENT PANEL WAS NOT MADE PRIVY TO EVERYTHING THE INTELLIGENCE AGENCIES HAD GATHERED TO CORROBORATE THEIR VIEW THAT IT WAS A NUCLEAR BLAST.
THE DISCOVERY THAT AN ISRAELI-SOUTH AFRICAN-TAIWANESE CRUISE MISSILE IS IMMINENT HAS NOT BEEN REPORTED OUTSIDE THE NATIONAL SECURITY COMMUNITY. EVEN SENIOR MEMBERS OF CONGRESS HAVE NOT BEEN TOLD. THE LEGISLATORS, WHO HAVE ASSUMED THAT THE ONLY THREAT OF AN END TO OUR CRUISE MISSILE MONOPOLYWAS FROM THE SOVIET UNION--AND THAT SEVERAL YEARS DOWN THE ROAD--WILL HAVE SOME HARD QUESTIONS TO ASK ABOUT THIS UNSETTLING DEVELOPMENT.
FOOTNOTE: AN OFFICIAL AT THE ISRAELI EMBASSY SAID THAT ISRAEL "WILL NOT BE THE FIRST TO INTRODUCE NUCLEAR WEAPONS IN THE MIDDLE EAST." A SOUTH AFRICAN SPOKESMAN INSISTED THAT HIS GOVERNMENT IS "NOT INVOLVED IN THE PRODUCTION OR DEVELOPMENT OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS." A REPRESENTATIVE FOR THE TAIWAN GOVERNMENT HAD NO COMMENT.

END TEXT.
MUSKIE